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THE DISTRICT
Correspondent

DECEMBER 2020

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Vehicle Service Group Helping Students Stay Warm and Healthy This Winter

Every Jefferson County elementary student to receive hat and gloves for #GivingTuesday

From VSG Corporate Press Release:

Madison, Ind., December 1, 2020 – Vehicle Service Group (VSG) is helping students in Jefferson County Indiana school districts stay warm this winter by donating hats and gloves to every elementary student in the county. The donation is part of VSG's effort to give back for #GivingTuesday, a global generosity movement encouraging people and organizations to transform their communities.

The Stay Warm – Stay Healthy program will provide a logoed hat, in school colors, a pair of gloves and a card with winter health tips to more than 2,200 students at Jefferson County's five public and private elementary schools. The program's mission is to promote health and safety during the winter months among the community's children. VSG and school officials will come together on December 1 to deliver the winter gear to the students.

"We are so very excited to be a part of VSG's Stay Warm – Stay Healthy campaign," said Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator at Madison Consolidated Schools, the county's largest school district "VSG continues to be a very generous educational partner and is a blessing to our schools in many ways for all students. The gift of warmth is a meaningful way to show how much they care for our kids. These beanies and gloves are a wonderful gift for our Future Cubs that will keep giving year after year."

"It's our job as community leaders to ensure the health and well-being of those around us," said David Fischmer, director of marketing for VSG. "The Stay Warm – Stay Healthy program provides students with the essentials they need to help stay healthy during the cold winter weather and show a little school pride at the same time." To learn more about VSG visit https://vsgdover.com.

About Vehicle Service Group:

As an operating company of the Dover Corporation, Vehicle Service Group (VSG) offers the world's premier brands in vehicle lifting, wheel service, collision repair and aftermarket OEM equipment. With over 90 years of experience, we design, test, manufacture, sell and support our products with one thing in mind … our customer.

VSG plans Engineering focused student internship opportunities in 2021

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

In early November, VSG received approval from parent company Dover to offer Engineering focused internships for MCHS Cub Engineering students. "We have been working on this for a while," shared Phil Brittain, Chief, Wheel Service, and Parts Supervisor with VSG. "We have worked hand-in-hand with our HR team to create a presentation to our global VP of Operations for approval. We recently received approval and are excited to begin working with the six students who have been recommended for this program."

VSG plans to hit the ground running with the interns after the first of the year. "We have a number of projects that we would like to get them working on in our shop," continued Brittain. "One of the things we see happening here at the school lab is the collaboration of the students on both the engineering and manufacturing sides of the business - that type of a cohesive working relationship is vital to the success of any company. We will get these students working together with our engineering team on real-world projects so that we can not only teach, but create a fast-paced environment so students can be a part of a project from start to finish."

VSG hopes to create a pipeline of students (10-12 per year) who will come in as interns and work throughout the school year and then continue over the summer in a paid internship position.

"Our ultimate goal is is to bring them into our company, show them the numerous opportunities available to them, be a part of their educational journey, and ultimately have them return as full-time associates once they graduate from their post-secondary school," Brittain continued.

"One of the many opportunities these internships (and the process of securing the position) has provided for us outside of the classroom is mentoring of our students," shared Jennifer Hensler, College and Career Readiness Coordinator for the district. "These students are learning to write resumes, determine what is important to include, how to speak with adults, and how to conduct a professional interview. We have several teachers in our high school who have reached out and offered to be mentors for these students as they prepare to take the next step in their career exploration. It has been an incredible experience for our students and for myself - to watch these relationships develop and make a difference for many of our students."

Madison Consolidated Schools operates one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools (each including preschool) serving approximately 2,600 students and their families in the Madison/ Jefferson County, Ind., area.

Our goal is to inspire success, boost confidence through critical thinking and problem-solving, and encourage collaborative learning. Our rigorous academic curriculum includes a diverse curriculum path into our Fine Arts Academy, multi-faceted college-and-careerreadiness programs, and work-based learning opportunities.

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From the Superintendent's Desk

All things considered, we are doing well!

What a great school year we've had so far! In some ways it feels like just a few days ago that we were enjoying late summer weekends and were anxiously waiting for the first day of school to begin. Back in August, we were both excited and concerned about the beginning of the new school year with our students back in the buildings. In August, none of us knew how long we would be able to stay open for face-to-face instruction, but we knew that we had to get students back in order to get the new academic year off to a great start.

We had isolated Covid-19 incidents throughout the early days of the semester, but it wasn't until November that we had to take an entire building to virtual instruction. As we went into Thanksgiving Break, only Deputy and Rykers' Ridge Elementary Schools remained in face-to-face instruction.

Virtual instruction has been an overall success, but there are some instances of struggle related to that model. Through it all, however, the academic gains the students have made, the new facilities that have come online, and the athletic achievements the high school had this fall have combined to produce one of our very best semesters Madison has ever seen! All of this happening with the pandemic in the background makes these successes even more meaningful! It could not have happened without all of you, our entire school community, coming together, working together, and giving each other the grace and understanding needed to operate in such a diffcult time. Thank you for everything you've done to help get us successfully to the end of the semester!

As the county's Covid-19 data continues to get worse, it should be noted that we track all available data very closely and make decisions regarding each building's ability to safely stay open. Each building has its own unique group of people working in it and is impacted by a unique set of individuals. While we are in constant contact with state and local health officials and are paying close attention to our state and local data, each building's data is the most important a school is open for face-to-face instruction or for virtual instruction.

As the fall has progressed, we have seen that when the county's "7-Day Positivity Rate for All Tests" exceeds 10%, we have experienced more adult issues (both close contact quarantines or actual positive cases) than when that rate is lower. A good predictor of how our schools will be functioning is by looking at that rate each day.

It certainly has been a difficult and stressful year for all of us, but we have a lot to be thankful for and to celebrate. As the semester draws to a close and the holiday season kicks into high gear, I wish you all peace and joy. As someone who has spent a lifetime searching for peace and tranquility, I hope all of you are able to find some measure of joy, peace, and tranquility during the holiday season. Have a wonderful Winter Break and we hope to see everyone back in person on January 5!

Let's all continue to work together to keep one another safe!

Dr. Studebaker

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Yancy Denning joins Madison SRO Team

At a recent meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Yancy Denning as the newest member of the School Resource Officer team at Madison Consolidated Schools.

Denning's law enforcement career spans 20 years and includes positions with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and Madison City Police, where he served as Chief.

For the past five years, Denning has served our community as a Detective with the Sheriff's Department. He has extensive experience and training in a number of areas including narcotics and undercover operations, crimes against children, sex and violent crimes, burglaries, and evidence preservation. In 2019, he wrote and recieved a grant to purchase the Cellebrite System which is used to unlock, extract, and perform comprehensive recovery and analysis on cell phones and other electronic devices seized by law enforcement. As part of the grant, Denning received training and is the local point for all officers and agencies on this type of investigation. Implementation of this system saves both time and resources for all area law enforcement agencies.

"I have always enjoyed working with our youth," shared Denning. "As a former coach at Madison, my goal was to have a positive impact on the student-athletes I worked with. In this position, I am really looking forward to developing positive relationships with a much larger community of students and their families. I truly believe when we invest our time and kids know you are there to help and that you care, you can truly change the landscape and, in some cases, the direction of a student's life."

Denning joins the current SRO team of Officer Jacob McVey and Officer Tim Armstrong. "I have always worked well with the schools and work closely with the SRO's on cases as needed," continued Yancy. "I feel I have a good understanding of the work they do, what is necessary to continue to build upon the solid foundation they have built, and look forward to immersing myself in the daily operations of keeping our schools safe for all students."

Denning is a 1992 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, holds an Associates Degree of Science in Law Enforcement from Vincennes University, and graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 1998.

Denning is a member of the Ohio Valley Crime Suppression Task Force, Stacks of Power Lodge #128, Jefferson County Community Corrections Drug Court, an Indiana Law Enforcement certified trainer, Hazardous Materials Operations Training certified operator, former member of the Jefferson County Transitional Services Ruth Haven, Jefferson County Youth Shelter, Jefferson House, Jefferson County Emergency Management Advisory Board, Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 9 Planning Committee, Training Board, and Law Enforcement Board, Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Council, and Jefferson County Emergency Management Advisory Board.

Space Re-defined as a Sensory Garden

Matthew Burkhardt, Designer

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

Over the summer, Matthew Burkardt, a Junior at MCHS and an Eagle Scout with Troop 717, completed a long-awaited, carefully planned refurbishment project on the campus of MJHS.

"I selected the project to make use of an unused and discarded area," shared Burkhardt. "My main goal was to allow those with special needs to have an area where they can experience different senses with the plants. All of the plants were specifically picked because they evoked one of the senses, such as lavender with smell and lambs ear with touch." In addition, he wanted the area to be used by the rest of the school, so he built and stained benches and a podium to be utilized as an outdoor classroom. As it turns out, his timing could not have been better. While the project has been in the works for some time, the COVID-19 shutdown made things a bit trickier with the closure of the campus in March. "Now, under the circumstances, it is a very welcomed outdoor classroom space that allows students and teachers to get outside, social distance, and safely remove masks for a bit," share Eric Phagan, Art teacher at MJHS. There are plans for Mr. Phagan's art class to install artwork to add to the space.

"I hope the space continues to grow and be used for many years to come," Burkhardt continues. "Hopefully other areas around the school campus can be revitalized to showcase student talent."

The project has helped Matthew gain leadership and communication skills. He worked with local businesses who were more than willing to support the project. Burkhardt acknowledged a number of community members for their generous donations. "I would like to acknowledge the following for their donations: Edee Kinaman from Lowe's who donated all building materials, plants, and pots; Rod Kiefer and Linda Bipes from Sedam Contracting who donated gravel; Cheryl Tandy from Tandy's Contracting who donated dirt; Phil Baxter from Baxter Lumber who donated mulch; John Bruns from Enviroscape for design planning and advice; Mr. Grill, Mr. Mahoney, and Mr. Phagan from MJHS for support and encouragement; Troop 717 and my family and friends for volunteering their time for the project."

For more on this story, visit WKMnews.com and search Eagle Scout Brings Sensory Garden to Madison Junior High School. The project took 10 months from start to finish and a total of 197 working hours.

View of Sensory Garden & Outdoor Classroom

Pictured in the learning space is Mr. Eric Phagan, Matthew Burkhardt, Mr. Dan Grill, and Mr. Kenton Mahoney

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New Staff Spotlight

After the school year begins each year, we try to reach out to all new staff members to learn a little more about them and share with our community. "We like for parents to be able to put faces with names," shared Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator. "We sent a Google form to all new staff asking them a few questions. It's always fun to learn about where everyone attended college, what they studied, and what makes being a part of the MCS team special to them."

MISSY AMBURGEY
Ms. Amburgey joined our team as an Interventionist at Lydia Middleton Elementary. She holds a B.S. degree from IUS in Elementary Education. Her favorite part of being at Madison is "everyone has been very helpful and we work well as a team."

BRIANA AUXIER
Ms. Auxier works as an ISP at MCHS and is currently attending Ivy Tech. Briana shared that "I love the people I get to work with."

EMMA BOOMERSHINE
Ms. Boomershine joined us as a third-grade teacher at Lydia Middleton Elementary this year. She graduated from Hanover College with a degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. Ms. Boomershine's favorite thing is "the staff is so nice and welcoming and my students are AWESOME!" She added, "I'm grateful to be a part of the Madison Consolidated family and can't wait to spend many more years in the district."

DEBI BRIM
Ms. Brim joined MCHS this year teaching Government and FACS/Culinary in our SELECT program for students in grades 9-12. She shared that having been raised in a small town, it is nice to be "back home." She loves the history of the area, the people (school kids and adults) are great! "Everyone is very welcoming!" Brim completed her Bachelor's degree in Social Studies/Teaching at IUPUI and her Masters in CTE Education from Concordia. Before becoming a teacher, Brim spent decades in the corporate world before opening her own business. "I am a retired caterer, having done wedding cakes for 30 years then operating my own wedding/catering/cookie business before I closed it and returned to school at the age of 50 to become a teacher. I am an avid crocheter with my projects taking state fairs ribbons every year, including Best of Show."

CHRISTY BROWN
Ms. Brown is a Behavioral Specialist working at Anderson Elementary. She holds a Bachelor of Sociology degree from the University of Louisville. Her favorite thing about being part of the MCS team is, "I love being part of the wonderful staff at Anderson!"

MARY KAY BUTLER, RN
Returning to our district, Mrs Butler, RN, is the school nurse at MCHS. Her favorite part of her job is "I love the daily interaction with the students. I have been extremely impressed with the compliance of both students and staff with the wearing of masks." Mrs. Butler is a Registered Nurse and holds a BSN from Indiana University.

CAITLYN CAREY
Ms. Carey has joined the Anderson Elementary team as a 2nd grade teacher. Her favorite thing about being in Madison is the people she gets to interact with daily. "The staff and students are always so positive and uplifting to be around, and I am honored that I was chosen to be a part of their school family." Carey holds a degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University Southeast.

HALEY COURTNEY
Mrs. Courtney joined the MCHS team as an Administrative Clerk this fall. She graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Tourism & Resort Hospitality Management, with a concentration in Event Planning. Haley's favorite part of our community is the small town feel of Madison. Originally from Owensboro, Kentucky, with a population of about 160,000, "Madison has a homey,everybody-knows-everybody feel, and that is something I really enjoy. I enjoy being a part of MCHS because of my awesome coworkers, the friendly atmosphere of the school, and having great work hours to be able to still have a work/life balance with my family."

ADAM DENNIS
Mr. Dennis joined the MJHS team this year as a 7th grade math teacher. His favorite part of being at Madison is "the commitment of the staff toward creating a great experience for the students. Everyone seems to be willing to do whatever is necessary to enhance that experience." Dennis is also an assistant coach with the high school girls basketball team. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Math Education from Manchester University, and a Bachelor of Science in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment from Walden University.

KASEY FELTS
Mrs. Felts followed in her mom's footsteps when she took a position with MCS! She is the Administrative Clerk/Bookkeeper at MJHS. "I am proud to be a Madison Alumni, Class of 95! The Madison School Corporation has always been a great school, not only to attend, but to watch my kids blossom while there, and my Mom to retire from after 21 years. I am now working alongside those individuals who made their experiences so great!" Felts holds an Associate Degree in Administrative Office Technology and a Technical Certificate in Computer Information Systems from Ivy Tech Community College.

OLIVIA GENNARO
Ms. Gennaro moved to Madison this summer after taking the 7th grade English teacher position at MJHS. "I just moved here in June and already love the sense of community at MCS and the wider madison area--especially the dedication to local history and businesses! I also write, with a special interest in middle grade and young adult literature!" Gennaro graduated from Indiana University (Bloomington) with a Bachelor of Science in English Secondary Education, minor in creative writing, and a reading license addition.

DANIELLE HALE
Ms. Hale is a 1st grade teacher at Lydia Middleton Elementary. "As a graduate of MCHS, I love teaching in my own community. It's nice to be familiar with not only my students and their families, but with my co-workers as well. I am thrilled to be a part of the MCS family!" Hale graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

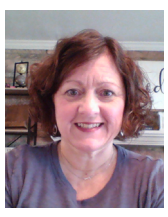
JESSICA HAMM
Jessica is the Administrative Clerk at the E.O. Muncie Jr./Sr. High School. Her favorite thing is that "Madison is a beautiful community with wonderful people and MCS is continuously working to better their community and provide the best for their students." Jessica has been married to Madison native, Jeff Hamm, for 21 years. She is mom to two great daughters, enjoys camping, sports, and spending time with her family.

KIRSTYN HARDWICK
Mrs. Hardwick is the Assistant Principal at Anderson Elementary. Mrs. Hardwick loves learning more about the Madison community and being able to support the Anderson School family. "There is a wonderful feeling of community and support in the school district that I am happy to become a part of. I look forward to getting to know more community members, and supporting students at MCS." Hardwick graduated from IUPUI with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Masters in Educational Leadership.

LAURIE HATTON
Ms. Hatton is the new 4th grade teacher at Rykers' Ridge Elementary. "I feel very welcomed at MCS! I am truly part of the Madison Cubs, and I am proud to be a part of this awesome team! I LOVED the orientation for new hires! The positive atmosphere was wonderful." Hatton graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, a Masters degree in Elementary Education with K Endorsement from Indiana University Southeast.

CHAD ISON
Another MCHS Alum, Chad Ison, returned to the district as an ISP at MJHS serving students in grades 5-8. "I love my coworkers. Having them around to help me throughout my day really makes my job a lot of fun. I love the fact that I am able to work in the same corporation that helped me become who I am today and I hope I can make a difference in these students' lives, as past educators have done for me." Ison will graduate from Ball State University this month with a degree in Sports Administration.

SHELBY ISON
Ms. Ison joined the team at MCHS teaching Agriculture and Culinary-classes for grades 9-12. Her favorite part of her Madison experience is the staff and students. Ison graduated from Purdue University with a Major in Agriculture Education and a Minor in Horticulture.



MICHELLE KARST
Mrs. Karst is the interventionist for virtual students in Kindergarten through 4th grade. "We have virtual students from all four elementary schools but Rykers' Ridge is my home base," she shared. "My favorite thing about Madison is the welcoming atmosphere and the employees' dedication to making a difference in the lives of the MCS students." In her free time, she loves to read or listen to books, be outdoors, and spend time with her family. Karst holds a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from Indiana University Southeast.

KELLY KEMPTON
Mrs. Kempton teaches Inegrated Chemistry and Physics at MCHS a portion of the day and works as an ISP with SELECT Place students the rest of the day. She studied Biology at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Kempton's favorite part is "I love being more involved in our community and rooting for my students at events."

GREG LAMB
Mr. Lamb teaches Diesel Mechanics 1st/2nd year and Intro to Transportation. "The thing I like most is the people in our school system and the awesome students we have here. It is really good to be able to enjoy coming here and teaching our students the skills they need to be successful everyday, and our staff is so helpful and courteous." These programs moved on campus at MCHS this year. "We are doing some really neat things here in our classes. We were able to get Cummins Engine Company to donate some brand new latest technology engines to our program. We just finished up building new stands to put them on just before all break. The kids are learning many new things from diagnosing and repairing live diesel powered vehicles to general fabricating tools of the trade. The students are having fun learning these new exciting things and are always looking forward to the next project. I could not be happier with the way this new program is going." Lamb holds an Associates Degree from Vincennes University in John Deere Ag Tech.

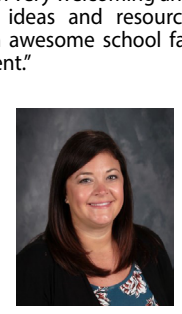
BROOKE LEVELL
Ms. Levell rejoined the Madison team this fall as an Intense Intervention teacher at MJHS. "The students and staff at MCS are so welcoming! As soon as I started at MCS I felt right at home." Levell taught previously at E.O. Muncie from 2007 - 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from IUPUI with certification in Special Education, a Masters degree in Special Education from Grand Canyon University, and Graduate studies in Educational Leadership from Indiana University (Director of Exceptional Needs and Building Administration).

AMANDA LITER
Mrs. Amanda Liter is the At-Risk Counselor at MCHS. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology; CADAC II Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Her favorite part is "the teamwork and heart for our youth."

BRITTANY MILLS
Ms. Mills is the Speech Language Pathologist at Lydia Middleton Elementary. When asked what makes her job so fulfilling, she shared "I truly appreciate that all of my students work diligently during therapy and are very motivated to participate." Mills holds a M. A, Speech-language Pathology from Northwestern University; a B.A. Political Science, Minor in Education Studies from DePauw University; and a Graduate Certificate in Assistive Technology from the University of Kentucky.

HILARY MULDOON
Ms. Muldoon joined the MJHS student services guidance team this year. She is the Guidance Counselor for all 7th grade students and 5th grade students with last names beginning with the letters A-G. Her favorite thing about Madison is "the community is so supportive of the entire health of each student: mental/emotional, physical, and academic." Muldoon holds a BA in Education/English Language Art, and MS in Education/School Counseling from Indiana University.

NICKIE NOLAN
Ms. Nolan teaches Kindergarten/1st grade at Anderson Elementary. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education from Saint Mary's of the Woods. Her favorite part about being at Madison, "the staff at Anderson has been very welcoming and helpful sharing ideas and resources. They have an awesome school family environment."



BETH PADEN
Beth Paden joined the MJHS team this year as the Administrative Clerk where she supports all students and families. Her favorite part of being at Madison, "I love getting to know the students and staff at MCS. I'm not originally from Madison so it's nice to put a name with a face and be more involved with MCS. I have four sons in MCS and I enjoy being on the same schedule as them as well as seeing my middle schooler throughout the day in passing." Paden graduated from the Indiana University School of Dentistry EFDA.

LAYN PIERATT
Ms. Pieratt teaches high school band, piano, and some junior high music courses. You can see her on the football field or in the gym leading the Marching Cubs and MCHS Pep Band to create a great sports environment for fans. What she loves about Madison…"it is a unique and beautiful community that values the arts." Pieratt studied Music at Miami of Ohio, graduated from the University of Indianapolis, and completed her Master of Science in Design and Production from Indiana University.

CASSIE POLING
Ms. Poling joined the team at Anderson Elementary as an Interventionist this school year. "There are many things that make MCS great! The staff has been very welcoming and helpful. I'm also excited about being back in the same school district where I attended school!" Poling holds a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education from the University of Southern Indiana. In her spare time, Cassie loves to decorate cookies!

SHELLI REETZ
Ms. Shelli Reetz returns to Madison as a 4th grade teacher at Lydia Middleton Elementary. Her favorite part is the "genuine, friendly, hard working people, and hiking in Clifty Falls. I am SO happy to be back in Madison and with MCS!" Reetz graduated from Hanover College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Masters and EdS in Counseling from Indiana University.

ANGEL SKELTON
Ms. Skelton has joined the team at Lydia Middleton Elementary as an Interpreter. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from IUPUC and an Associates degree in American Sign Language from Vincennes University. Her favorite part of her job is "I love the opportunity to continue using my skills to help students!" She also enjoys exploring Madison and becoming more familiar with the community.

ELIZABETH SLADE
Ms. Slade is a 3rd grade teacher at Lydia Middleton Elementary. "I love how much MCS feels like one big family! Students and staff are constantly looking out for one another and helping each other. My passion in teaching is empowering students to learn to educate themselves, creating lifelong learners." Slade holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Brigham Young University.

JENNIFER STERK
Ms.Sterk is a 7th grade Math teacher at MJHS. "Everyone has been so welcoming, helpful, and kind! I feel like we're all working together to help children succeed inside and outside the classroom. My family and I are so grateful to be a part of MCS, and we look forward to many years of enjoying such a wonderful community." Sterk holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in Mathematics & Psychology and a Masters in Secondary Education in Mathematics & Psychology from Indiana University Southeast.

ELVIRA SUTHERLAND
Ms. Sutherland teaches the 3 year old preschool class at Lydia Middleton Elementary. She shared her favorite thing about Madison is that "it feels like a family here who has welcomed me right in." Sutherland holds a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education P3MI from Saint Mary of the Woods.

JENNIFER WESTER
Ms. Wester recently returned to Madison and is teaching Kindergarten at Rykers' Ridge Elementary. "I love Madison. I am originally from here and went to E.O. Muncie for kindergarten and first grade long ago. We moved to the big city of Birmingham, Alabama. I needed a change of pace. I am enjoying no traffic with my commute to school and the scenery is enjoyable each morning. I love Madison's strong sense of community and the smaller school size. I am looking forward to getting to know these families and each student really well. This is my 23rd year to teach Kindergarten - I love to TEACH!" Wester holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Early Childhood Education from the University of Montevallo.

Classes of 1983, 1986, 2006, and 2011

Roger Ward

graduated from Madison in 1986 - back when DECA and VICA were the classes of choice for students interested in something other than a four-year college pathway. At that time, Roger was interested in anything mechanical. He was fascinated by machines, how they worked, and spent much of his time building projects from the ground up.

Following graduation, Roger attended Ivy Tech for two semesters. From there, or actually during, he went to work for Rotary Lift. Roger has been employed with Rotary Lift/VSG for 35 years in a number of different capacities. Beginning his senior year in high school, he primarily pushed a broom for eleven months, soaking up all he could as the business bustled around him. As his career progressed he gained experience as an assembler, painter,
material handler, laser cut operator, CNC operator, building maintenance, overhead crane installer, production welder, weld robot operator, tool builder, prototype builder, and most recently added Certified Weld Inspector to his growing list of professional experience. Roger is the perfect example of the value of a cross functional employee who possesses and embodies a spirit of continuous learning and curiosity.

Roger has been on the Cub Industries advisory board from early on in the process. "I had been hearing things about this program and I knew I wanted to be a part of it," Ward shared. "I approached my VP at the time and asked him to get me in!" As part of the advisory board, he shared that his biggest surprise was the overwhelming support and collaboration of the local manufacturing community and the very deep personal involvement from a couple of the board members. "When we all work together for the success of these kids, all of our companies stand to gain as well. I am so happy to see this type of program, it has needed resurrecting for some 25 years."

When asked what has been the most fulfilling part of this experience Ward shared, "just knowing that I/we can have an impact on students who in other ways may have nowhere to go after high school. This is a huge chance to get them the instruction/training necessary along with several steps in the right direction to a very successful future with some continued effort. I will never tell any of them it will be easy from here on out - but it will be much easier having been involved with Cub Industries!"

Reflecting, Roger shared that "I would have taken more math classes and learned to type better. I would have asked more questions about my future - been open minded, may have led to engineering. Other than that, I wouldn't change a thing." As he works closely with students in Cub Industries and his welding class at Ivy Tech, he encourages them to ask questions. "Regardless of how dumb they may seem - ask questions, seek out people who are working in the skilled trades ask them about their experiences. Be open to exploring and accepting challenges, be ready and able to adapt to the task at hand, and never say that it can't be done. There are two words that I never want to hear and they are, I CAN'T!"

Ryan Lamb

Ryan Lamb, CTE educator, graduated from MCHS in 2006. He attended Marian College for two years and transferred to Ball State University and graduated with a degree in Secondary Education specializing in Technology Education. He later acquired his Vocational Workplace Specialist License.

"I always loved welding and the way a factory produces a finished product," shared Lamb. "I now have the unique opportunity to share my passions with my students and (to date) the most rewarding part of my job is watching them develop a skilled trade, enter the workforce, earn a competitive wage, and succeed as young adults."

"My role has changed from teaching PLTW, Transportation, and Intro to Manufacturing to learning to run a business," he continued. "This program has come a long way in five years. We have an incredible support system in our local manufacturing partners. Dave Ungru has been an incredible asset to our program through his financial contributions and countless hours of investment in our staff and students. Most recently, he was instrumental in assisting us with our new facility."

As a teacher, Lamb sees education has shifted from focusing on a four-year program for all students to more of an acceptance of trade schools and teaching students to make a living using their hands. "I tell my students to explore your options," he shared. "There are a number of opportunities for students in skilled trades and the pay is very good. Our program is unique to our school and is in a position to change lives - that is an incredible thing to be a part of. To know you have provided a student with the foundation necessary to make a good living as a skilled-trades professional is very fulfilling!"

Phil Brittain

A member of the Class of 1983, similarly, Phil went to work at Rotary Lift that same year. He started as part-time college help before he was offered a full time position. "The DECA program at MCHS helped me get into the retail business," Brittain shared. "Following graduation, I went to Ivy Tech for Automotive Repair. It was during that time that I learned that Rotary Lift was hiring college help which helped me get my foot in the door, and now over 35 years later I have made an excellent living and had countless opportunities as a result."

"One of the most rewarding aspects of being a part of the Cub initiative is sharing today's manufacturing," Brittain continued. "Things have changed drastically over my time at Rotary/VSG. We are customer focused. The customer has many options and the competition is much stronger than in the past. We focus on what is important to our customers. Our customers want high-quality lifts, at a great price and want it quickly. This requires our business to be very agile. Requiring VSG to continuously improve our products and the time to produce. We have accomplished these challenges by training our employees and introducing automation into processes."

As manufacturing processes have evolved, so have the opportunities for a more technical and skilled workforce. "When I started, I swept the shop floor." Brittain continued. "As my experiences developed, I learned to weld and assumed more responsibilities such as managing processes and people. There are a number of jobs today that provide the same opportunities from entry-level to leadership pathways. Some are engineering, robotics programming, computer programming, quality control, material management, accounting, and human resources."

Having the experiences he has now, when asked what he would share with the high school version of himself, Phil said "I would tell myself to learn all you can in school. It will pay many dividends in the future." Education today has evolved, just like everything else. "The school continues to challenge students for their benefit. Once you graduate, life becomes very competitive. You have to set yourself apart from the rest in order to get the job you desire. Embrace the challenges, they will make you better."

VSG has been a huge partner in this initiative from the beginning. "VSG wants to support this program as they know these students are the future of VSG, the group to take us into the next decade," Brittain continued. "I believe this program will be the source of the success of all companies in our community."

Derek Herrick

graduated from MCHS in 2011 and returned to teach for the 2016-2017 school year. Herrick, as he is affectionately referred to by his students, began teaching standard engineering classes. "I enjoyed all of the PLTW courses I took in high school and really enjoyed my drafting classes," he shared. I also took PLC programming and Robotics, which ultimately led me to pursue Technology education as a profession."

Herrick's position has morphed into more than simply teaching a class. When he began teaching the Cub Engineering courses, he also has the added responsibility of helping students understand how to run a successful business. "It is different from your typical classroom course, with the CTE pathway courses, you also have additional things to focus on and with Cub Industries we have the opportunity to help build a successful business model, in addition to the class work, which we sometimes find ourselves learning alongside the students. This year, we are very excited to be able to add the engineering internship aspect to the pathway."

Herrick shared that something different about this particular program is that business aspect. "There is so much more to this program than delivering curriculum," he continued. "I definitely felt that with the help of the advisory council being hands-on with us at school, I have gotten a crash course in how businesses should run."

Cub Engineering began in 2017 as part of the Pathways offered at MCHS. "This gives students an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the manufacturing students in a real-time environment," he continued. While the engineering side may, more often, lead to a four-year college pathway - it opens other doors. "I have definitely seen a harder push at the state level for programs in CTE, Herrick continued. "I feel students are more encouraged to look into trades and other careers that don't necessarily lead to college."

Herrick shared that student pride is one of the most fulfilling aspects of being involved in this program. "For me, it has been having students be able to take pride in their work around town. Getting to hear stories of them taking their parents to see projects we have done throughout the community and they tell their parents that they built this and explain how it all was done...that's what puts a smile on my face!"

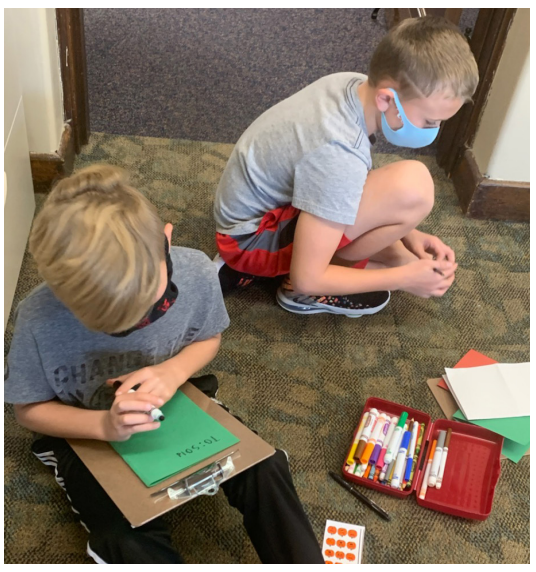
Herrick holds an Associates Degree from Vincennes University and a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and Technology Education from Indiana State University.

Veterans Day Celebrations... never far from our hearts

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

As with everything else in 2020, the annual Veterans Day Program was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. While the schools could not host their annual programs to celebrate the service of our veterans, each school did what they could to make sure local veterans felt loved.

MCHS Graphics teacher, Mrs. Marlene Pietrykowski, worked with her students to create buttons. "We sent out over 350 buttons," Pietrykowski shared. "We delivered to the American Legion, VFW, and the Elk's Club - who hosted a Veterans Day breakfast. Our students did a great job of getting the buttons done and we understand the veterans appreciated getting them."



In addition, several students also made cards to share with local veterans and organizations. The week of November 9, Lydia Middleton students participated in the Holiday Cards for the military challenge. "We wanted to show our gratitude for our military who will be serving away from home this year," shared Amy Hoskins, Counselor at Lydia Middleton. "We sent a total of 309 cards. It was a great experience and our students really enjoyed it."

Each school had a video that was posted to their Facebook page honoring the holiday. "Our Specials teachers in each building did an outstanding job of coordinating efforts," shared Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Studebaker. "This is always a special program for each of our buildings to share with our community. They were innovative and we hope our veterans enjoyed seeing the tribute from each of our schools." The videos can be found on each school's Facebook page.

Cub Industries lab and program expansion fuels CTE student opportunities

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is seeing a resurgence as states everywhere are experiencing a lack of skilled trade, pipeline employees to fill vacancies left by an aging, retiring workforce, more technical fields, and advanced manufacturing opportunities. "When students today hear 'manufacturing', our goal is to have their eyes light up with curiosity," shared Jennifer Hensler, College & Career Coordinator at MCHS. "Manufacturing today is much different from when your dad or grandpa went to work at a factory years and years ago. A large part of my job is to help connect our industry partners to the school, generate an interest in our Pathways of study, and ultimately help create a pipeline of highly qualified employees for students who choose to enter the workforce directly after graduation."

The decision was made and approved by the Board of School Trustees during the 2018-2019 school year for MCHS to withdraw from the Southeastern Career Center at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. "The move was made in order to provide (and expand) upon programs for our students on our campus," shared Dr. Jeff Studebaker, Superintendent. "We had students traveling up to an hour a day to get to their classes. With the help of some community partners, we were able to create a few lab spaces on our campus to house many of those programs with the intention of expanding into a regional learning center, not only for students but our long-term goal would also include adult learners."

HISTORY/MISSION

In 2015, MCHS launched Cub Manufacturing as part of the Pathways program for high school students. Cub Manufacturing is a working lab space which gives students in our Advanced Manufacturing Pathways program hands-on application of academic curriculum in a real-time production space. Since inception, a number of community partners have made significant investments in this project by donating equipment, time and expertise, guidance through an ongoing advisory board which meets periodically to assess progress, consultation on system and process development, and projects. As partners in education, these area manufacturing leaders are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers to fill positions vacated by an ever-growing retirement bubble which is expected to continue for the next several years. "Our goal is to work with our community partners to determine needs, develop curriculum, and guide teachers to provide as many student opportunities as possible to help fill a qualified and sustainable future employee pipeline," Hensler continued.

"The manufacturing industry has changed dramatically in the last few decades," shared Roger Ward, VSG Engineering Prototype Developer/Weld Inspector, founding Advisory Council Member, and Class of '86 MCHS alumni. "The technological advances and career opportunities available today for those interested in advanced manufacturing are limitless. Manufacturing has advanced, become much more interesting, and more technical; and we want to help open eyes to what is available and create a pipeline of skilled workers not only for VSG but all area manufacturers."

Founding Advisory Council Members Dave Ungru and Roger Williams, along with school administrators, traveled to Wisconsin in 2014 to visit Cardinal Manufacturing - a school-based, student run production shop in hopes of learning how to replicate the program model for local students. "Roger learned of the program through his professional network and discussions began among industry leaders," shared Dave Ungru, Owner of Koehler Welding and Koehler Tire. "We approached the school shortly after our trip and we have been running ever since to make it the best opportunity possible since we opened the doors in August, 2015. We have an advisory council who meet with teachers Ryan Lamb and Derek Herrick and their students on a regular basis to provide whatever support they may need. These students are learning all functional aspects of the business from design, to purchasing, to pricing, logistics, finance, and the importance of providing quality customer service."

Along with Ungru, Ward, and Williams of Royer Corporation, other founding members include: Kevin Turner of Madison Precision Products, Phil Brittain of VSG, Jeremy Leach of Arvin Sango (rotated off in 2019), and Brian Hornsby of IKEC. Since 2018, the advisory council has expanded to include Chuck Hensler of SuperATV, Danielle Meredith of Arvin Sango, Matt Wirth of JCIDC, George Tackett and Andrea McDole of Ivy Tech, and Samanta Wilhoit of Nucor. "This group has invested countless hours of time, financial resources, equipment, and mentoring for both our students and teachers," shared Hensler. "The expertise, life experiences, and process improvement feedback over the years from our Advisory Council has provided us with meaningful relationships, candid discussions, and an overall better program for our students and more qualified, future employees for our community business and industry partners. Many students have moved onto work as interns and eventual full-time employees with some of our manufacturing partners."

LAB EXPANSION

At the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, construction and expansion began on a new lab space for our students. A generous donation from industry leader Dave Ungru created the opportunity to relocate our maintenance operations to a new building which allowed re-purposing of existing on-campus space. The newly and specifically designated space for Cub Industries allows for all equipment to be located in one central location, provides classroom and design space, and organizes the lab for a more productive work environment.

Equipment used by students includes (but not limited to) : a plasma table, multiple welders (ARC, TIG, Stick), a lathe, ring and arch rollers, a drill press, manual and hydraulic benders, grinders, a paint booth, a laser engraver, vinyl cutter, gas application forge, 3D scanner, 3D printer, and all necessary safety equipment. "We have a wide variety of equipment we have been fortunate to acquire," shared Ryan Lamb, MCHS Cub Manufacturing CTE instructor. "Our advisory board has been instrumental in advising, securing, or donating what we need in order to make this shop as comprehensive as possible so our kids are well versed in the processes and equipment they may encounter in local manufacturing facilities."

INTERNSHIPS - MPP and VSG have programs for students

Madison Precision Products launched first opportunity for students

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Comminications Coordinator***

Kevin Turner, MPP's Vice President of Operations, has been involved in the Cub initiatives from the beginning. He knew that MPP could further develop their educational partnership and create unique opportunities for a more in-depth, hands-on learning experience within their production facility. So in the Summer of 2019, Madison Precision Products (MPP) took "a leap of faith," shared Nancy Sobeck, Training & Development Senior Manager at MPP. "We knew this would be helpful not only for the students but for our company as we could develop associates from the ground up through our training program. We immediately went to work with MCHS to explore the possibilities around creating an internship program."

The model developed by MPP is relationship focused. The internship program begins with the student-associate in seven weeks of training. This training is face to face, in small groups, guided by experts, and during this time they do not see the production floor. "The focus is on building relationships," Sobeck continues. "We value an incredible amount of personal contact with all of our associates. We see great value in being able to be very selective with our hiring processes, understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each associate, and then pairing them with one another to share experiences and help develop them all as well-rounded associates who are happy and content in their work and strive to develop further skills to move up within our organization."

In the summer of 2019, MPP began with two interns from MCHS. "The program rotates each semester with opportunities for students to apply and interview for internships," Sobeck continued. "Each intern spends begins in either Casting or Machining, then the second semester rotates them to Die Cast, and their third semester is a specialty area of their choice. The idea is that the student works with their leader/mentor to learn all aspects of each area so they are cross-trained and have a wide berth of experience so they are able to select an area of interest by the time they get to their third semester rotation."

Long-term, MPP is hoping to create a more in-depth experience for the program. MPP hopes to hire 8-10 interns per semester and develop a deeper partnership with both MCHS and Ivy Tech - Madison campus. "Part of our learning is the need to work as closely as possible with our teams at MCHS and Ivy Tech to further develop and provide wrap around services focused on the importance of academic success, attendance, time management, overall and life-skill development," Sobeck shared. "These students receive specialized training from both the high school and Ivy Tech that makes this program unique and successful and we need to be willing to help develop skills they will need to be successful throughout their lives."

Sobeck is directly responsible for the internship program and works with established, full-time associates to determine their progress as the program progresses. "Each student-associate is evaluated by their mentor/leader on their performance. They are expected to clock in on time, report to their work place supervisor, and are evaluated on their attitude towards their work, co-workers, and their ability and desire to learn. As these relationships develop, we are able to learn more about what drives them to be successful, help them to overcome obstacles, and guide professional development to areas of interest for the long-term success of their career and our company."

As part of the program, interns are given uniforms, safety shoe reimbursement, gym membership reimbursement (active, healthy employees are more productive), and have the opportunity for prescription safety glasses reimbursement. "We feel all of these benefits are teaching them the value of a benefits package, a way of budgeting paid time off, and providing a competitive wage and package to incentivize employees," Sobeck continued.

Currently, MCHS and MPP have an MOU (Memo of Understanding) which outlines the terms of the agreement for apprenticeship/internship with the company. "We are so excited to be a part of this program and have the opportunity to mentor and develop excellent employees," Sobeck shared. **SEE VSG INTERNSHIPS PG. 1**

STGEC & TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communcations Coordinator***

MCHS partners with Ivy Tech - Madison to create dual-enrollment courses which support all students whether they are on the two or four-year college track or choose a skilled trade with direct entry to the workforce. "Students at MCHS have had the opportunity for several years to earn their State Transfer General Education Core (STGEC)," shares Jennifer Hensler, College and Career Coordinator. "The STGEC is a transfer core of a minimum of 30 college credit hours in six competency areas. A student who successfully completes this coursework can transfer their block of 30 (or often more) credits toward the general education core requirements at any state education institution. This is the equivalent of the first year of college education."

Several years ago, the Board of School Trustees approved the payment of these courses for any student to pursue the STGEC. "The conservative estimate of tuition savings is $20,000 for our families," Hensler shared. MCHS has consistently increased the percentage of graduates with STGEC each year with the past three years pushing the 30% mark of the students in each class completing the necessary requirements. "We have had 283 students graduate with their STGEC since 2015. With the conservative estimate of a $20,000 savings in college tuition - this is a savings of over $5.6 million for families in our community."

In addition to the four-year path, our dual-enrollment curriculum provides opportunities for students to earn Technical Certificates in Welding (MIG, TIG and STICK), Medical Assisting, Business Administration, Industrial Maintenance, Information Technology, and Pre-Nursing Studies. "The partnership between Madison and Ivy Tech has been invaluable," shared Superintendent Dr. Jeff Studebaker. "The cost savings of the tuition value of the STGEC saves families an extraordinary amount of money. The Technical Certificates place students in a competitive position with local and regional employers to enter the workforce directly at a very competitive wage. We have had a number of students benefit from this relationship and the forward thinking of both teams who work tirelessly to provide interesting and relevant curriculum for students."

In 2019, Cub Industries became the first high school based industry in the state to create their own college credentials with the Interdisciplinary Industrial Workforce Certificates. The Cub Industries Advisory Council along with the Ivy Tech Madison campus determined the courses that fulfill the requirements of these certificates for both the Engineering and Manufacturing tracts. While participating in Cub Industries, students can earn up to 18 college credit hours in courses primarily taught as dual credit by Lamb and Herrick. These courses include nationally recognized certifications, as well as, industry validated competencies with multidisciplinary electives tailored to fit the needs of our local industry.

MADISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

THANK YOU !

VSG VEHICLE SERVICE GROUP A DOVER COMPANY SM

Elementary students in Grades K - 4 received the gift of warmth from our friends at VSG!

Check out the articles in this edition to learn more about how VSG and their associates invest in other MCS student programs and initiatives!

MADISON CAREER ACADEMY

As part of the move away from the Southeastern Career Center last year the Diesel & Automotive programs are now a part of the MCHS curriculum and students take their classes on campus at the high school. "We are very excited to be able to provide this opportunity for our students on our campus under the guidance of Mr. Greg Lamb," shared Jill Deputy, Director of CTE for the corporation. "We had a number of students travelling to take courses we now offer right here at home."

In a similar manner to the relationship between Cub Industries and local manufacturing leaders, the school plans to build a similar model and partnerships with local automotive leaders. "Our goal is to work with Ivy Tech - Madison to take this program to the next level," shared Studebaker. "We are committed to building the process to provide instruction and lab space that will train students to work in the competitive fields of diesel and automotive industries. Using the Toyota curriculum, creating expanded lab space, certified instructors, and hands-on experience with the technology and equipment used currently in automotive maintenance, we will provide a pathway to certification. Students will be able to enroll in courses which will give them the opportunity to complete a certification giving them access and an advantage when applying for a number of high-wage, high-demand jobs with local dealerships as certified service/mechanics. "We are very excited about the expansion of this partnership and program," Studebaker continued. "This is the perfect example of schools working together with our community partners to understand needs, develop curriculum, and provide students who wish to explore a skilled trade and an alternative to a four-year degree program."

Dual Enrollment Pathways pave the way for success

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

In addition to **Advanced Manufacturing**, MCHS offers Pathways in **Engineering, Health & Medical Science**, and **Entrepreneurship**. "The dual enrollment Pathways programs offer a detailed roadmap of courses for students who wish to pursue careers in these areas of study," shared Jennifer Hensler, College and Career Coordinator. "Our team came together and worked closely with our partners at Ivy Tech - Madison to align courses and create certification paths for a number of high-demand, high-wage career sectors." Since work began in 2014, MCHS students have been awarded degrees in: Structural Welding CT, Welding Technology TC, Industrial Mechanical CT and TC, Business Administration CT and TC, Associate of General Studies, Information Technology Support TC, Animal Agribusiness CT, Food Science CT, CNA CT, Outpatient Insurance Coding CT, Medical Assisting TC, and Pre-Nursing CT. In the last five years, MCHS has had a number of students graduate high school with Technical Certifications in Welding (STICK/MIG/TIG), Certified Nursing Assistant, and Medical Assistant.

The Cub Engineering program has also grown significantly in recent years. Partnering nicely with the work in Cub Manufacturing, students in both Pathways work hand-in-hand to design, manufacture, and deliver custom products for a number of our local partners. Students in the Engineering Pathway program will complete core coursework that will transfer to a four-year secondary school as part of the STGEC (30 hours of completed college-credit) or can be a launching pad for Technical Certification through Ivy Tech - Madison in Welding or Industrial Maintenance.

"Having the Engineering students in the same space has made a great addition to the program," shared Roger Ward of VSG. "In a real-world setting, Engineers and production have to be able to work together seamlessly to get a job done well. Learning to work together from conception to design through prototyping and production is a great experience. In doing so, all students understand the importance of the other's work, will better communicate needs, and produce a better product." Counselors at MCHS have been able to adapt the master schedule to accommodate back-to-back class periods to allow students to have more time in the lab. "One of the early challenges was time," shared Dave Ungru of Koehler Welding. "The kids would no more get to class and then it was time to leave. Having the ability to have all of the kids there for two hours or so per day is a great move to a more productive and efficient business model."

The Health & Medical Sciences Pathway has produced a number of CNA's upon high school graduation. "Most of our CNA's have gone on to a four-year nursing program," Hensler continued. "However, by completing the dual enrollment program, students earn a CT (Certificate) and directly enter the workforce. We have had several students follow this path, or a combination of the two - working for local partners such as Trilogy as CNA's as they complete their course work or in the summer. All of these employment opportunities provide opportunities to create impressions that place our students in a great position to secure full-time employment earning a competitive wage and benefits."

The Entrepreneurial Pathway is growing in enrollment and programs. Tied to Business Certifications, this is the space where the Business Admin and Cub Culinary programs are housed. MCHS Culinary teacher LeAnne Blackerby has engaged an increasing number of students in her culinary courses which provide the basics not only for self-sufficiency as a life skill, but also a foundation and appreciation for work in the hospitality industry. "We have a number of students who begin to explore in Intro to Culinary and find they really enjoy it," shared Blackerby. "In C1 students learn about food safety, develop knife skills, and develop skills in sauces, breads, baking, and presentation. Several students move into C2, the second year of coursework to further develop their culinary skills and a few have found a love for food preparation and either work in local restaurants or plan to further explore their options as a newly found career path." Blackerby recently completed the necessary training for dual-credit certification of this course. "In the very near future, the culinary program will be dual-credit for students enrolled," shared Hensler.

Similar to Cub Industries, Culinary has a professional advisory board of chefs from around the regional area. Chef KC Maine from The Hangar, has taught knife skills, mother sauces, bechamel, veloute, and hollandaise. Local chef Alex Garrett Wenning, visited for a lesson on laminated dough for croissants. John Heitz, co-owner of the Red's, presented a lesson on dough throwing, building the pizza, and using a pizza peel in the ovens. Wayne Blackerby, owner of The Hangar in Columbus, presented lessons on business, entrepreneurship, what employers want in their employees, and where the industry is headed (pre-COVID). In addition, Blackerby provided the winner of the first Knife Skills Champion, a professional knife set at the conclusion of the competition last year.

Other areas of study which provide students with experience in hands-on, entrepreneurial career paths include Graphic Arts, Business, and Agriculture. Currently, MCHS has twelve students on track to complete the Business Administration CT and TC. "Because MCHS is able to offer students so much dual credit in the area of business, we will have our first cohort of students complete this program this year," shared Andrea McDole, Director of K-14 Initiatives at Ivy Tech - Madison. "The Business Administration program is a kick-start into the world of business. Students learn various business functions which leads to success in any industry. Coursework includes hands-on in marketing, building personal websites, delving into finance, breaking down budgets, and orchestrating proper management."

Agriculture is new but expanding as a dual credit opportunity for students at MCHS. "Last year we awarded three Animal Agribusiness CT's and two Food Service CT's," McDole continued. "With the addition of a few courses, we are looking at possibilities to include certifications in Plant Production and Agribusiness Management in the near future."

SEAL PROJECT

By: ***Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator***

The SEAL Program (State Earn and Learn) is unique to Indiana and celebrates the best practice models combining classroom instruction and hands-on application. The goal is to connect students in careers with a focus on workforce development to create a pipeline of highly skilled students to fill high-wage, high-demand jobs.

In August 2018, Governor Holcomb came to Madison to celebrate the first ever Certified State Earn and Learn (SEAL) in Manufacturing and in Welding. "These two Certified State Earn and Learn programs have served as model programs across the state," shared Carrie Lively, Senior Director of Indiana's Office of Work-Based Learning & Apprenticeship. "Multiple schools and employer partners have adapted the framework that developed in Madison to create their own comprehensive programs. The foundation that was laid in Madison has been viewed as best practice and these two SEAL programs have been integral in expanding public/private partnerships, in which students are given opportunities for postsecondary education as well as applied learning within the walls of invested employers."

Earlier this summer, Ivy Tech was awarded SEALs designation in both Welding and Industrial Maintenance by Lively. During this recognition, MCHS and dual-enrolled student Coby Uebel, shared his experience as a full-time intern with Madison Precision Products and how the whole program has impacted his life and provided him with a career pathway which is both challenging and rewarding. "I commend the work that Madison Consolidated Schools has done to ensure that students are prepared for the high wage and high demand jobs within their community, and the commitment to further expand programs in other sectors as well," continued Lively.

In October, the state released information on the forming of the Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship (OWBLA) Advisory Board. This group of fifteen volunteers will help guide the way for work-based learning initiatives moving forward due to the important impact it has on Indiana's education and workforce systems.

In the press release, OWBLA Executive Director, Darrel Zeck said, "It was important to have geographical representation statewide and support from each of Indiana's six key economic sectors. Each of the fifteen members previously showed interest in serving on such a board or has been instrumental in supporting work-based learning programs within the state or their places of employment." Madison's Dave Ungru of Koehler Welding, and founding Cub Industries advisory council member, will serve on this board. "We feel very fortunate to have someone who will continue to share the success stories out of our programs at MCHS with others in the state," stated Jennifer Hensler. "I know Dave's passion for this initiative, his resolve to make opportunities available for our students and community, his passion for these programs to be the best they can be, and he will push us to continue to evolve and grow as he brings new learning and ideas to our district."

There are plans for additional SEALs at MCHS. "I look forward to working with Madison High School to develop comprehensive programs in Engineering and Design, Culinary, Business, and Healthcare, Lively exclaimed. "Madison Consolidated Schools is a leader in the state when it comes to forward thinking design and true integration of education and industry, which is preparing students for the workforce of the future."

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